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**Sent:** Monday, 4 August 2008 21:03  
**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 4. Air Force/Air Power [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Name: D. M.

Submission: 'Australia is a massive country with a small population. With mineral, oil and gas wealth in our Northern approaches it is pertinent to raise the issue of Air Power. Strategically Australia has to rely on offence to deter its enemies, and with loss of life in Asia during WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam Wars, we are to traditionally expect that without an air capability, we are going to depend on land and naval capabilities. What decided WWII was the Air Capability of the United States, and more to the point, its industrial strength to produce quality and fast airpower along with long range bombers.

Without a nuclear weapons capability Australia must rely on its natural resources and stocks which cannot retaliate to any form of nuclear strike on Australia. Even clandestine nuclear powered submarines operated by the Australian Navy will not be able to match the deterrent effect of nuclear tipped ballistic missiles.

Without any nuclear force, Australia must reserve for itself a complement of long range capability bombers in the likes of the F111s. The ideal amount of these would be 60 with around 20 or so spares, which would be able to strike strategic targets. With a Collins class submarine armed with conventional armed cruise missiles, Australia will retain a substantive strategic capability.

Beneficially though, Australia will need to develop nuclear armament in order to maintain a strong deterrence against any enemy threatening our shores. This will be beneficial to maintain peace in our region since many countries are now taking up nuclear arms. With nuclear disarmament not a viability while Russia and China retain their right to keep nuclear weapons and to provide support to their proxies, it is purely logical that Australia designs for itself a formidable air defence system incorporating a strategic deterrence through F111s, nuclear powered and nuclear armed submarines which operate clandestinely (undetected to enemy eyes and ears) and a substantial Air defence system on land in Australia.

This incorporates the use of Patriot missiles on coastal areas and military/Air Force bases, and in strategic oil and gas areas. Also a missile shield system which would protect Australian land from nuclear missile attack would strengthen the Australian Government's commitment to Defence.

Because of Australia's land mass, a large twin engine fighter is the practical choice for Australia's needs, and basing them in locations around Australia which would provide protection and cover for most or all of Australia's coastline, with a practical 30 minute response to almost any location on our coast.

This would mean a fighter capable of Mach 2.5, like the F22 or the F15. The F15, even today, when Australia builds new Eagles on licence from Boeing, can provide a massive amount of capability compared to the lightweight Hornets. The F15s can be based at 3 locations in Western Australia which currently has no fighters based here and can be based on average of 2 locations per state. With a requirement for around 200-210 airframes, and with around 1500 Air to air missiles and 2000 bombs, Australia will be comprehensively set up for a secure Air shield. Even the Sukhois which now outpace the Hornets will now be matched by the acquisition of the Eagle. The F22 is too over priced and will not concern us unless we decide to keep the F111s and defer the F35 and F15.

The F35 JSF is a single engine fighter but is not as practical as a large twin engine fighter.

New Zealand, Singapore, Korea and Japan would be ideal locations for a single engine fighter.

All of those countries have the F15 except for New Zealand which chose to disregard its Air Force and now is unable to even shoot down airliners if terrorists gain control of the cockpit.

Considering the countries in Asia who we are strong friends with have bought the F15, says a lot for this superiority fighter aircraft.

If Australia is to operate more Hornets and/or JSF F35s, they should be used for a Naval Air Capability which Australia decided not to continue in the early 1980s. Considering Labor gained power in that time it would be ideal for the current Government to retake the slack and acquire a new carrier for the RAN. This would be of vital importance to supporting our land forces as th UK's Royal Navy Harrier Jump Jet's proved in the Falkland's campaign and the US Navy's proven use of troop support from carriers during the last 66 years.

The most efficient defence strategy for Australia is a strong deterrent in the F111 bomber (additional would be nuclear missiles/bombs deployable from the F111 platform, submarine platform and land platform) with a large fleet of twin engine Air Superiority fighter jets (F15) capable of covering our coastline all around Australia, with a strong Radar and Missile Defence networked system in place to protect our cities and military (Air Force Primarily) bases.

Australia should concentrate its resources in the Army on a much bigger Reserve Force capable of being called up in less than 24 hours and current forces should concentrate on logistical planning with the aim of basing and getting our force to where it is required quickly and effectively with precision. With an increase in tank (M1A1) numbers and Light Armored Vehicles such as the ASLAV and Bushmasters, the ADF will gain an advantage with having sufficient forces at home while being able to go off-shore for disaster relief, nation-building and offensive operations. The ASLAV is perfect for Australian conditions and the many versions make it very flexible. Purchasing a new large fleet of ASLAVs can help to replace the M113 APCs and can provide troop protection during the use of the on-board weapons systems.

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